

From: Edward Hagen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:39am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern
(Please forward these comments to the court as well)

It is obvious to everyone that Microsoft illegally used its monopoly power to crush a competitor (Netscape), that the proposed settlement does nothing to punish this and the other crimes that Microsoft was found to have committed, that Microsoft will continue to use its monopoly power to crush or disadvantage competitors, and that the proposed settlement does little to prevent such future abuses. The settlement also contains clauses that appear to specifically preserve Microsoft's ability to discriminate against the open source software community.

It is also obvious that Microsoft's monopoly power is extraordinarily intimidating to other companies (for example, Microsoft could destroy Apple by simply refusing to release their Office software for the Mac), and that this intimidation inhibits the competition that has driven the development of the software industry since its inception.

The lack of competition in the software industry will soon have a deleterious impact on consumers, if it hasn't already (why must EVERY business and institution purchase MS Word for \$\$\$? Because there isn't any competitive product due to Microsoft's illegal, monopolistic behavior).

The proposed settlement should be rejected by the court.

Sincerely,

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